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# Asia Pacific:

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*Asia Pacific: Perspectives* is a peer-reviewed journal published at least once a year, usually in April/May. It welcomes submissions from all fields of the social sciences and the humanities with relevance to the Asia Pacific region.\* In keeping with the Jesuit traditions of the University of San Francisco, *Asia Pacific: Perspectives* commits itself to the highest standards of learning and scholarship.

Our task is to inform public opinion by a broad hospitality to divergent views and ideas that promote cross-cultural understanding, tolerance, and the dissemination of knowledge unreservedly. Papers adopting a comparative, interdisciplinary approach will be especially welcome. **Graduate students are strongly encouraged to submit their work for consideration.**

\* 'Asia Pacific region' as used here includes East Asia, Southeast Asia, South Asia, Oceania, and the Russian Far East.

## Editor's Introduction

by Joaquin L. Gonzalez III, Ph.D.

The editors of *Asia Pacific: Perspectives* are pleased to offer four important contributions to the scholarship on the Asia Pacific for this Summer 2007 issue.

The first article, by Dr. Sarita Jackson, bridges the Pacific Rim whose connections Dr. Evelyn Rodriguez traced back to the historic Manila-Acapulco Galleon trade in the May 2006 issue of *Perspectives*. In her essay, Dr. Jackson (University of Maryland) argues that economic intersections between Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia, and the Pacific have only deepened with the formal establishment of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (or APEC for short) in 1989. Dr. Jackson adds that much of trade and investments have moved from intra-regional flows to cross-regional traffic. Not surprisingly, she adds, Pacific Rim economies that have moved away from intra-regional ties and gone into inter-regional trade deals have found themselves with increased access to other regional markets and larger economies, low cost producers, and more efficient production mechanisms.

With greater cross-regional integration and the growing economic control and influence of its Northeast Asian neighbors led by China and Japan, Richard Payne worries about the Southeast Asian economies bound together by their commitment to an Association of Southeast Asian Nations (or ASEAN) free trade area. In his study, the University of San Francisco M.A. in Asia Pacific graduate and long-time Asia consultant argues that a number of serious adjustments must be made in the ASEAN integration model to help counteract this East Asian regional imbalance and move forward with AFTA. These reforms include: (1) promoting deeper regional private sector initiatives; (2) pursuing a multi-polar strategy to integration; and (3) utilizing civil society and corporate voluntarism as a core strategy in promoting integration.

In the third article, Trisakti University (Jakarta, Indonesia) Economics Professor Tulus Tambulan presents an in-depth case study from Central Java in Indonesia. He reminds us of the continuing critical role of government even in this era of large-scale global privatization and cross-regionalization. This is particularly important in creating a better playing field between foreign-owned business and large enterprises (LEs) on the one hand and local small and medium enterprises (SMEs) on the other hand. In his study, Dr. Tambulan found that Indonesian government agencies are currently the largest providers of training and technology transfers in the highly competitive metal working sector.

Embedded in contemporary cross-regional arrangements and examined by Jackson and Payne are contractual labor capital movements and transnational immigration. Dr. Rica Llorente, who teaches at the University of Phoenix and California State University - East Bay, delves deep into the Filipino global diaspora in the final article of this issue. Interestingly, there is an old adage from her homeland the Philippines which can be paraphrased as "a community that does not know how to look back at its past and heritage will never get to its destination and legacy."

Recognizing this, Dr. Llorente, aggregates and analyzes currently available demographic data such as age, gender, occupation and regional concentration on Filipinos in the United States and other countries. In doing so she is able to determine critical patterns and trends in terms of the diaspora's future direction and strength.

We would like to thank our dedicated reviewers for their valuable comments, feedback, and suggestions for these incisive contributions to the literature on the Asia Pacific.